


	Installation Instructions Solid Bamboo Flooring For Assistance, Call: 1-800-986-3460 Homedepot.com/homedecorators	Products Description 5/8 in., 9/16 in., 1/2 in., 3/8 in., Thick; Solid; Tongue and Groove	Grade Levels On Grade Above Grade	Installation Method Nail/Cleat Full Spread Glue	Model #1000 000 000 Item #xxx-xxx
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 WARNING: CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS: This product can create wood dust and emit formaldehyde of which are known to the State of California to cause cancer.
 CAUTION: ASBESTOS IN EXISTING FLOOR: Home Decorators Collections product does not contain asbestos. Existing installed resilient flooring and asphaltic adhesive may contain asbestos fillers or crystalline silica. Do not sand, dry sweep, dry scrape, drill, saw, bead-blast, or mechanically chip or pulverize existing resilient flooring, backing, lining felt, asphaltic “cutback” adhesive or other adhesive. See “Recommended Work Practices for Removal of Resilient Floor Coverings” (rfci.com) for detailed information and instructions on removing all resilient covering structures.
 CAUTION: WOOD DUST: Sawing, sanding and machining this product can produce wood dust. It can cause respiratory, skin and eye irritation. Avoid prolonged exposure to wood dust. Power tools should be equipped with a dust collector. If possible, perform wood dust generating activities outdoors. If high dust levels are encountered, use an appropriate NIOSH-designated dust mask.

Safety and Health Precautions

Power tools can be dangerous. Operate in strict accordance to manufacturer’s operating instructions and safety precautions. Unsafe and improper use can cause serious injuries. Avoid inhalation and exposures to wood dust by mechanical means and by wearing personal protective equipment. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes NIOSH or OSHA approve dust masks, safety goggles and work gloves.

Warranty

This flooring product comes with a manufacturer Limited Wear Warranty. The warranty applies to the original purchaser of the flooring. It warrants the original purchaser that the finish surface will not wear through for the duration of the stated warranty from the date of purchase. Contact our Customer Service Team at 800-986-3460 to request a written copy which provides detailed terms of coverage and limitations.

Pre-Installation

OWNER/INSTALLER RESPONSIBILITY

The owner is advised to be at home during the installation for consultation/direction. The owner and installer should discuss installation and layout to maximize satisfaction. If this is not possible, consultation should be done prior to installation. Installers should be familiar with installation guidelines from National Wood Flooring Association (woodfloors.org). The owner/installer assumes all responsibility for product quality of completed installation.

PERFORM PRE-INSTALL INSPECTION. FOR CLAIMS PURPOSES, YOU ARE ALLOWED TO OPEN UP TO 4 BOXES FOR PRODUCT INSPECTION. DO NOT OPEN ALL THE BOXES. OPENING ALL THE BOXES CONSTITUTES YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRODUCT. INSPECT ALL THE PLANKS IN THESE 4 BOXES CAREFULLY. EXAMINE FLOORING FOR COLOR, FINISH AND QUALITY. IF YOU DISCOVER THAT PRODUCTS ARE DEFECTIVE, OR IF MATERIAL IS QUESTIONABLE, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE RETAILER. IF YOU ARE SATISFIED, PROCEED WITH INSTALLATION.

Prior to installation, rack up planks from several boxes to ensure uniform distribution of colors, shades and characters in the installed flooring. Planks having similar widths should be placed together in the same row to minimize gaps between boards.

Bamboo floors are natural products containing natural variations in color, tone, grain, streaks, nodal marks and other characteristics found from plank to plank. They are normal and it does not mean the product is defective.

Purchase flooring to be installed in one large area at the same time. Product purchased at a later time than the first purchase may vary beyond your expectations.

Accessories, trims and moldings are manufactured to coordinate with the varied appearances of the floor planks. Any exact matches are coincidental. Non-matching accessories are not defective products.

This product is manufactured according to strict quality standards. In the event that defects are discovered in the field, the industry standards permit a defect tolerance not to exceed 5%. Order an additional 5% extra for cutting wastage and grading allowances (10% for diagonal installations).

During installation, inspect the planks continuously. Defects that can be seen from a standing position should be cut off or held out. Installing defective planks implies acceptance.

Squeaking and clicking noises are the result of interactions among flooring, joists and subfloors when they move. Limiting the movements of the flooring system usually eliminates most of these noises. Sometimes, it is impossible to eliminate them completely and minor squeaking or clicking noises are to be accepted as normal flooring phenomenon.

Minor scratches can generally be repaired with the use of putty, stain or filler. It is an industry standard practice of flooring installation and it should be accepted as normal by the home owner.

To assure the warranty is not inadvertently voided, before proceeding with any activity that is not covered in this manual, please contact our Customer Support Team at 800-986-3460.

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

- Concrete subfloors must:
- Have minimum rated strength of 3000 psi.
 - Be level to within 1/8 in. in a 6 ft. span or 3/16 in. in a 10 ft. span; no bumps or low spots. High spots can be removed by grinding; depressions can be filled with patching compound formulated for use in floor installation.
 - Be clean; no construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on or adhering to the floor; if necessary, scrape and sweep away before the installation; no protrusions of nails, debris, metals should remain.
 - New concrete slab must cure for at least 60 days. It must have a minimum 10 mil polyethylene sheet between the ground and the concrete.
 - Be free from moisture related conditions which can damage the installed flooring.

CONCRETE MOISTURE

Test all concrete subfloors for moisture content and document the results. Visual checks are not reliable.

Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near walls containing plumbing, near foundation walls and in the center of the room. Minimum sample size is 3 samples per 1000 sq. ft. of area and one test for every additional 1000 sq. ft. thereafter.

- Moisture content should meet one of the following criteria:
- 4.5% when tested using Tramex Concrete Moisture Encounter.
 - Less than 3 pounds per 1000 sq. ft. per 24 hours when using Calcium Chloride test (ASTM F 1869).
 - 75% when using Relative Humidity Testing (ASTM F-2170).

 **NOTE:** Concrete moisture content may be acceptable the time of the test. These tests do not guarantee a perpetual “dry” concrete slab. The concrete slab moisture content can vary at other times of the year. We are not responsible for moisture-related damage to installed flooring.

LIGHT WEIGHT CONCRETE

Light weight concrete is concrete with a rated strength that is less than 3000 psi. Perform a quick check by drawing a nail across the top; if it leaves an indentation, it is probably light concrete.

For glue-down applications, the concrete must possess shear strength greater than the glue. If concrete rated psi is unknown, contact the adhesive manufacturer for guidance.

WOOD SUBFLOOR REQUIREMENTS

The subfloor must be clean; no presence of construction debris, soil, mud and any other objects on or adhering to the floor; no protrusions of nails, debris, or metals should remain. If necessary, scrape and sweep the subfloor before the installation.

The subfloor must be structurally sound and stable; no movements or squeaks; no loose panels or loose nails; no signs of ply de-lamination or other damages. Repair all shortcomings before installation.

The subfloor must be flat; no visible bumps or low spots; the subfloor should be flat to within 1/8 in. in 6 ft. span or 3/16 in. in 10 ft.. High spots must be sanded flat and low spots must be filled with a leveling compound. On old or uneven wood floors, apply 1/4 in.- 5/8 in. plywood and ring nail or screw every 6 in. to avoid squeaking. Test for moisture using a reliable moisture meter. Perform tests at locations around exterior doorways, near foundation walls, near walls containing plumbing lines and in the center of the room. Measure 20 locations per 1000 sq. ft.. Moisture content of the subfloor should be less than 12%. Moisture content difference between the subfloor and flooring should be 2% or less.

PLYWOOD OR ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB) SPECIFICATIONS

On truss/joist spacing of 16 in. (406 mm) O/C or less, the industry standard for single-panel subflooring is a minimum 5/8 in. (19/32 in., 15.1 mm) CD Exposure 1 plywood subfloor panels (CD Exposure 1) or 23/32 in. OSB Exposure 1 subfloor panels, 4 ft. x 8 ft. sheets. Expansion gap between panels should be 1/8 in. (3 mm). If panels are not tongued and grooved and there is not sufficient spacing or is inadequate, cut in the required spacing with a circular saw. Do not cut in expansion space on tongue and groove panels.

PARTICLE BOARD OR FIBER BOARD

Do not use.

EXISTING FLOORS

Installation over existing floor requires the installer to consider potential issues related to moisture damage, adhesive failure and fastener failure. Contact the adhesive and fastener manufacturers respectively for their specific instructions, recommendations and requirements.

For nail down, acceptable flooring includes: solid hardwood or linoleum.

For glue down, acceptable flooring includes: ceramics, terrazzo, or solid hardwood.

RADIANT HEATED SUBFLOOR

This product cannot be installed on a radiant heated subfloor.

MOISTURE BARRIER AND MOISTURE RETARDER

CONCRETE SUBFLOOR

Use moisture barrier if concrete moisture level exceeds the required limits.

WOOD SUBFLOOR

Use asphalt-saturated kraft paper or #15 or #30 felt that meets ASTM Standard D4869 or UU-B-790, Grade D. Overlap along the edge seams 2 in.- 4 in. wide. This retards moisture movement from below. Extend the moisture retarder to about 1 in. from the walls. Secure to the subfloor as necessary.

SOUND CONTROL UNDERLAYMENT

Check with the sound control manufacturer for application guidelines. Generally, the less compressive underlayment is preferred.

EXPANSION GAP

A required gap width of 3/8 – 5/8 in. is required around the perimeter of the floor and between the floor and all vertical obstructions. Do not place permanently mounted structures such as kitchen counters/cabinets on the installed floor. On floors wider than 20 ft., more or less spacing between rows may be needed depending on geographical area, interior climate control and time of the year.

ADHESIVE

Use premium flooring adhesive which is non-water based, formulated for engineered bamboo flooring installation. The preferred type is moisture cure urethane floor glue.

Helpful Pointers

GENERAL TIPS

- Make sure your work area is well lit. Good visibility ensures that color is consistent and that visually defective planks are detected and removed.
- The minimum length of the first and last plank is 12 in.. Using a shorter piece at undercut door jams will help when fitting flooring in place.

NAIL-DOWN INSTALLATION TIPS

- Make sure power cleats are approved for use in OSB if plywood is not used as a substrate.
- First and last rows require hand nailing because the pneumatic or power-nailer cannot be used safely.
- First and last rows require pre-drilling through the face; nailing with 8d nails; countersinking the nails and the use of matching color putty to fill holes.
- Until the power nailer can be used safely, additional rows may require pre-drilling through the tongue; blind nailing it with 8d nails; countersinking the nails.
- Use a spline or slip tongue whenever a change of board direction is needed. Splines should be glued to the groove and nailed into place.
- If the last row is less than 1 in. wide, it should first be glued at the joints to the previous uninstalled row and the joined unit should be face-nailed as one.
- Occasionally, a piece may be slightly bowed. Nail one end first, then use the pry bar to push the other end in place, nailing as you go.

GLUE-DOWN INSTALLATION TIPS

- ALWAYS REFER TO THE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON THE FLOORING ADHESIVE LABEL. The information given here is for typical installations. Adjust it according to adhesive manufacturer's instructions.
- Dry-lay means the glue has to set before placing floor planks in it. Wet-lay means the glue does not need to set before placing flooring on it.
- Use a trowel design specified by the adhesive manufacturer.
- Continuously check the transfer of adhesive THROUGHOUT the installation process. If the adhesive no longer transfers to the back of the flooring material, it must be removed and new adhesive applied.
- Work your way out of the room.
- After the installation is completed, keep the floor free from daily foot traffic for a minimum of 24 hours to allow adhesive to properly cure.

CUTTING THE LAST ROW TO WIDTH

- Most often the entire length of the last row will need to be cut so that it is narrow enough to fit the remaining space.
- Measure the distance between the floor face edge (exclude the tongue) to the wall. Subtract 3/8 – 5/8 in. from this measurement for expansion gap. Draw a line. Cut through the line. Discard the excess piece. Proceed with the installation.

Preparing for Installation

- Lay out the board from several cartons. Rack the boards to give you the appearance you want. Colors and shades should be mixed up evenly. End joints should be staggered; minimum ends stagger is 6 in. and varied.
- Inspect plank quality and grading. Do not mix lot numbers without checking for color match. If flooring is defective, contact the dealer or the store immediately and discontinue installation.
- Lay out trim moldings in advance and find planks whose shade closely matches. Set these aside for future use.
- Remove the existing base, shoe molding or threshold carefully. They can be used to cover the 1/2 in. expansion gap left around the edge of the room.
- Clean subfloors.
- Undercut doors and casings using a handsaw laid flat on a piece of scrap flooring. This eliminates difficult scribe cuts.
- Install the underlayment (if used) parallel to the flooring according to the underlayment manufacture instruction. Any overlap (top) should be on the same side as the groove of the flooring so that the floor planks will slide smoothly into place. Tape all seams. Secure the underlayment material as necessary to prevent excessive movement.
- Always use a protective foot/pad and proper height adapter plate on the fastening machine to prevent face damage, mallet damage, and edge bruising.
- TEST FIRE THE POWER NAILER ON SACRIFICIAL FLOOR PLANK ONTO A BOARD. CHECK NAIL PENETRATION. CHECK FOR IMPACT DAMAGE ON FLOOR FACE. CHECK FOR SPLITTING TONGUE.

JOB SITE CONDITION

Prior to installation, the installer must ensure that at the time of installation, the job site conditions including subfloor/substrate, ambient temperature and relative humidity, and all impacting variables will not negatively affect the floor. The manufacturer will decline responsibility for damages associated with improper installation or poor site conditions.

STORAGE AND CONDITIONS

Do not store flooring in uncontrolled environmental conditions. For example, garages and exterior patios are not acceptable areas to store flooring. Handle and unload bamboo flooring with care and store within the environmentally controlled site in which it is expected to perform. Flooring stored on a concrete slab should be elevated at least four in. to allow air circulation under cartons.

EXISTING HOME

An existing home should have a consistent room temperature of 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) of 40%-55%. Continual deviation from these conditions will affect the dimensions of flooring, especially bamboo. When using a heater during winter months, humidity may be much lower than the acceptable range. A humidifier is recommended to prevent excess shrinkage in bamboo flooring due to low humidity levels. During the warmer months, maintain humidity levels using an air conditioner, dehumidifier, or by turning on your heating system periodically.

NEW CONSTRUCTION OR REMODEL

All work involving water, such as pouring basement concrete floors, drywall and plasterwork, plumbing, etc. must be completed well in advance of the floor delivery. Ensure that the building is enclosed. Where building codes allow, permanent heating and/or air conditioning systems should be operating at least five days preceding installation and should be maintained during and after installation. If it is not possible for the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system to be operating before, during and after installation, a temporary heating and/or dehumidification system that simulates normal living (occupied) conditions can enable the installation to proceed until the permanent heating and/or air conditioning system is fully operational. Your job site should have a consistent temperature of 60°F-80°F and relative humidity (RH) of 40%-55% which should be maintained continuously thereafter.

BASEMENTS AND CRAWL SPACES

Concrete slab or ground must be dry. Crawl space vents must be opened year round to prevent moisture build up. The ground in the crawl spaces must be completely covered using 6 mil black polyethylene. Crawl space clearance between the earth and underside of joists should be no less than 18 in. and the perimeter vent area should be equal to 1.5% of the total square footage of the crawl space or as mandated by code.

FASTENERS

5/8 IN., ½ IN. AND 9/16 IN. FLOORINGS

- Finish nail:** 6d-8d
- Nail / Cleat Length:** 1-1/2 in. – 2 in. (4-5 cm);
- Nail size gauge:** 15 - 16 gauge or 18 - 20 gauge; higher gauge is needed if tongue is splitting upon impact.
- Face nailing spacing:** Every 10 in.- 12 in. (position first and last nail between 1 in.- 3 in. from ends and ½ in. from edge)
- Blind nailing spacing:** Every 6 in.- 8 in. (position first and last between 1 in.- 3 in. from ends)

3/8 IN. FLOORING

- Recommended Powernail tools:** Nailer; 1 in. long, 20 gauge cleats, angle entry at 55°
- Finish nail:** 6d
- Nail / Cleat Length:** 1 in.- 1 ½ in. (3-4cm).
- Nail / Cleat size:** 18-20 gauge. You may have to glue the floor if the tongue is splitting upon impact.
- Face nailing spacing:** Every 10 in.- 12 in. (position first and last nail between 1 in.- 3 in. from ends and ½ in. from edge)
- Blind nailing spacing:** Every 6 in.- 8 in. (position first and last between 1 in.- 3 in. from ends)


TOOLS AND MATERIALS BASICS

Tape measure • Moisture meter (wood, concrete or both) • Chalk line & chalk • Hammer • Electric power saw • Carbide tipped saw blade for fine cut • NIOSH-designated dust mask • Hand saw or jamb saw • Eye protection • Straight edge or Spacers • Pry Bar • Mallet • Broom • Color matched wood putty • Tapping block • Pull bar

Additional Supplies for Nail-Down Method: Electric drill and bits • Compressor and hose with in-line regulator for pneumatic tools • Power nailer for flooring with height adapter to match floor thickness • Pneumatic finish nailer • Nail set

Additional Supplies for Glue-Down Method: Flooring adhesive • Trowels • Adhesive remover for selected adhesive • Clean rags • Weight roller • Painters tape

FLOOR DAMAGE PREVENTION

 **NOTE:** For 3/8 in. thick flooring, we recommend a nailer with 1 in. long 20 gauge cleats. Angle entry at 55°.

It is extremely important to take precautionary actions to prevent damage to the floor during installation. ALWAYS TEST FIRE THE NAILER TO ENSURE PROPER SETTINGS. Use proper nailer, floor thickness adapters, face plates and cleats. Improper fasteners, machines and air pressure can cause severe damage to the flooring. Forcing or pounding floor boards together with a rubber mallet during assembly may bruise or damage board edges. The Manufacturer is not responsible for installation damages. Tongue fracture and surface dimpling are common installation damage. They are not product defects. Damage can be minimized by one or more of the following actions:

- Change the angle of nail entry.
- Use thinner cleats or nails (18-20 gauge).
- Use an over-size base or foot plate to distribute the nailing force.
- Pre-drilling pilot holes and hand nailing may be required.
- As a last resort, use glue-down method instead, especially on thinner floors (3/8 in. or 5/16 in.).

FASTENING FAILURE

Fastening failure is NOT a flooring product defect. Inappropriate fasteners may cause mechanical failure. It will fail to hold the floor attached to the subfloor. Do not mix fasteners of different length or gauge. Always check with the fastener manufacturer to ensure the correct method and sizes fasteners are being used to install the floor to the existing floor subfloor.

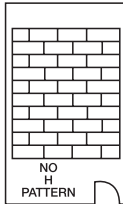
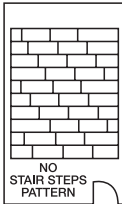
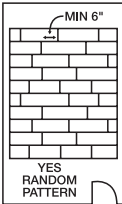
BOND FAILURE

Bond failure is NOT a flooring product defect. Most installation failures, including bond failure, result from jobsite moisture.

Do not unpack or deliver flooring to the jobsite until moisture problems are corrected. Read adhesive manufacturer's instructions carefully. Certain wood flooring adhesives may have special requirements and limitations of use. Some existing floors may not be acceptable. Not following the adhesive manufacturer's recommendations can lead to installation failure or product damage and will void your warranty.

GLUE SPOTS ON FACE OF FINISHED FLOOR

Adhesive can damage the floor's finish, especially when it has dried. It is extremely important to take precautionary steps NOT to leave finger prints or footprints marks on the face of the board. Preventive actions include wearing gloves when spreading glue and discarding the glove when finished. Use clean gloves before placing the floor planks in the adhesive layer. If glue comes in contact with the face of the board, remove immediately with the adhesive remover recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Use clean towels, changing frequently to prevent haze and adhesive residue. If the spot removal damages the appearance of the boards, replace the board.precautionary steps NOT to leave finger prints or footprints marks on the face of the board. Preventive actions include wearing gloves when spreading glue and discarding the glove when finished. Use clean gloves before placing the floor planks in the adhesive layer. If glue comes in contact with the face of the board, remove immediately with the adhesive remover recommended by the adhesive manufacturer. Use clean towels, changing frequently to prevent haze and adhesive residue. If the spot removal damages the appearance of the boards, replace the board.

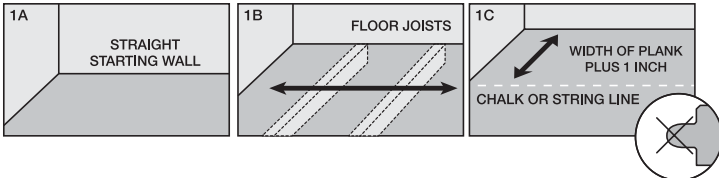


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Nail Down Installation

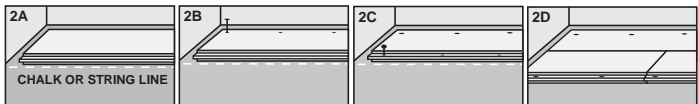
1 ESTABLISHING A STARTING LINE

- Lay out the direction of the floor. Install flooring perpendicular to joists. If it is to be in parallel to the joist, reinforce the subfloor with a layer of 1/2 in. CDX ply.
- Select a straight starter wall.
- Mark the starting line using a chalk line or a string between two nails. This distance between the wall and the line should equal the face width of floor plank plus the 3/8 to 5/8 in. expansion gap plus 1/4 in.. Do not include the width of the tongue. This will result in a 3/4 in. expansion gap between the flooring and the wall.



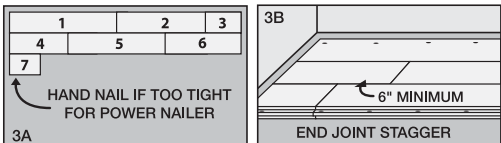
2 INSTALLING THE FIRST AND SECOND ROWS

- Lay the first plank behind the line with the tongue facing the center or the room. Position the edge of the tongue on the line. Leave a 3/8 to 5/8 in. gap between the flooring end and the wall.
- On the groove side, pre-drill and face nail.
- On the tongue side, pre-drill at a 45° angle and hand blind the nail through the nailing “pocket” on top of the tongue.
- Counter sink the nails with nail set. Repeat the same method to complete the first row.
- On the second row, if you can safely use your power nailer, use it. If not, pre-drill the tongue at a 45° angle and repeat hand blind nailing with finish nails as above. Remember to stagger the end joints.



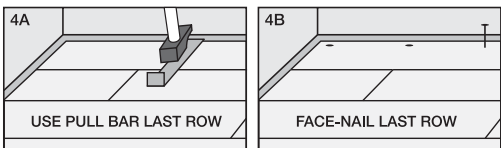
3 INSTALLING THE REMAINING ROWS

- If the pneumatic or power nailer cannot be used on the next row, repeat the second row installation method until the power nailer can be used.
- When the pneumatic nailer can be used, blind nail the rows on the tongue side. Place nails at the same intervals as the previous rows.
- Maintain a minimum 6 in. end joints stagger between rows.



4 INSTALLING THE LAST ROW

- Use the pull bar to draw the last row to fit tightly to the previous row.
- Face-nail the last row on the tongue side.
- If the last row is less than 1 in. wide, it should first be glued to the previous uninstalled row and the two joined unit should be face nailed as one.

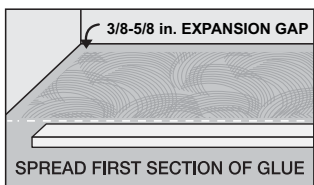


Glue Down Installation

⚠ IMPORTANT: ANY EXCESS GLUE WHICH SEEPS ONTO THE SURFACE OF THE FLOOR MUST BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY WITH ADHESIVE REMOVER.

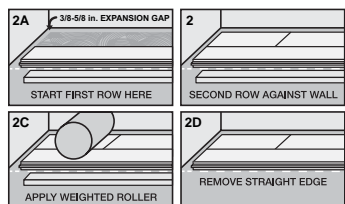
1 ESTABLISHING A STARTING LINE AND SPREADING GLUE

- Establish a starting line by referring to Step 1 in the Nail Down Installation section above.
- Spread the glue from the straight edge or chalk line out, in the direction of the starting wall.
Spread only enough glue to install what can be set within 45 minutes (15 minutes of OPEN TIME and an additional 30 minutes for actual installation. Usually about two rows width coverage). Different manufacturers may require different open times and set times.
- Repeat step b with each succeeding row.



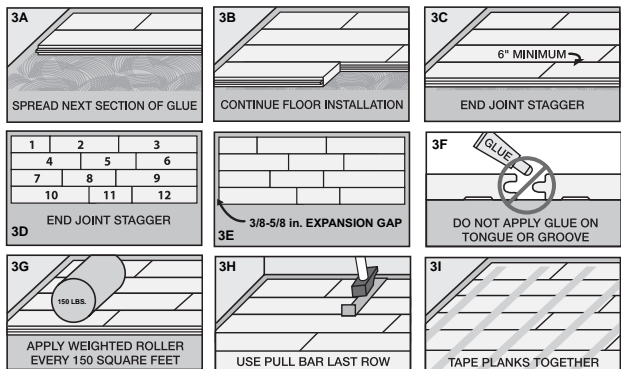
2 INSTALLING THE STARTER ROWS (FIRST TWO ROWS)

- Installation begins from the straight edge with the tongue facing away from the wall. Allow an expansion gap between the wall and the end of the board.
- Install the second starter row. Use a 150 pound roller or weigh them down while the glue sets. Allow the glue to set and remove the straight edge.



3 INSTALLING THE REMAINING ROWS

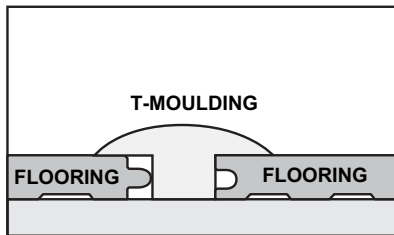
- Spread another section of glue. Never spread more that can be covered before the adhesive is set. If adhesive is set and will not transfer to the back of the plank, scrape off the adhesive and apply fresh adhesive.
- Continue to install the next rows. Make sure there is a random staggering at the end joints of at least 6 in. apart.
- Be attentive to staggering the ends of the boards correctly in adjacent rows to avoid clustering end joints.
- Ensure that a 3/8 to 5/8 in. expansion gap is maintained around the perimeter of the room.
- Make sure that there is 100% adhesive contact between the underside of the planks and subfloor.
- Any excess glue which seeps onto the surface of the floor must be removed immediately with adhesive remover.
- The glue should not be applied in the groove or the tongue of the flooring.
- Tap the planks together until the tongue and groove “snap” into place. Be careful NOT to damage the face of the planks.
- Use a clean, smooth, 150 pound roller to roll the flooring immediately after installation and after every 150 sq. ft. interval during the installation to ensure proper adhesive transfer.
- The flooring should be taped together during installation using painters tape to keep the planks from moving during installation. The tape must be left in place for a minimum of 24 hours. Flooring straps can be used to pull boards together and hold them in place while the glue dries.
- After the installation is completed, keep the floor free from foot traffic for a minimum of 24 hours to allow adhesive to properly set.



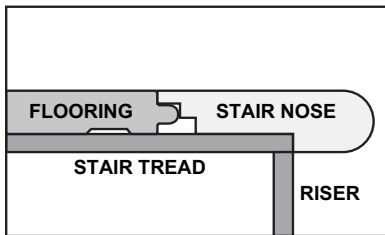
Completing the Installation

- Clean the floor.
- Use matching putty where necessary.
- Install or reinstall all wall trim pieces. Nail them through the wall, but not to the subfloor to avoid restricting the expansion gap.
- Install transition trim pieces. Nail them to the subfloor, not the flooring.
- At doorways, transitions should be used to protect the edges of the floor and to provide a decorative transition from one floor type to another.
- If the floor is to be covered, use a breathable material such as cardboard. Do not cover with plastic.

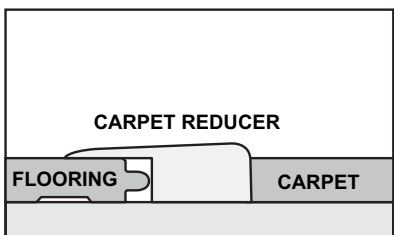
T-Molding: Used to create a transition between floor coverings of similar heights or to cover an expansion gap.



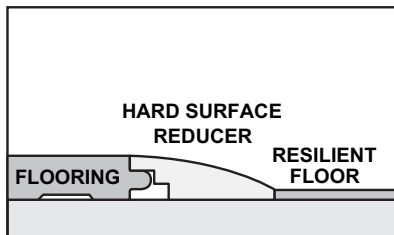
Stair Nose: Used in conjunction with flooring installed on stair steps or finished edges of a higher level floor like in a sunken living room.



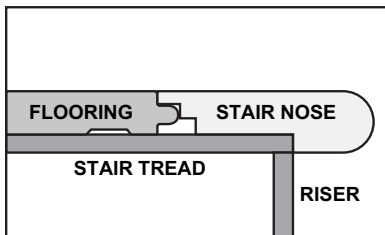
Carpet Reducer (also called Baby Threshold or End Cap): Used to transition floor coverings of differing heights. This reducer strip is also commonly used to border a fireplace, sliding glass door and other exterior door jambs.



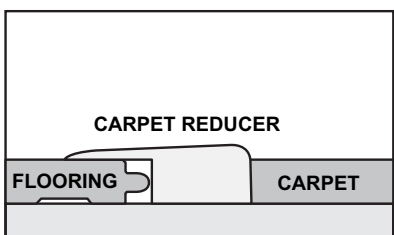
Hard Surface Reducer: Used to transition to another hard surface flooring of different heights such as tile, vinyl, or concrete.



Wall Base: Used to give a finished look at the base of the walls. It can be used with or without Quarter Round.



Quarter Round: Used to cover the expansion space between the wall base and your flooring. It can also be used to make smooth transitions between the floor and cabinetry. It can be used with or without wall base molding.



Care and Maintenance

DAILY MAINTENANCE

- Sweep, dust, mop, or vacuum your floor regularly to remove any particles that could cause abrasion or scratch your floor.

⚠ CAUTION: Vacuums with a beater bar or power rotary brush head can damage a floor and should never be used.

- Use a damp mop to remove spots and soil. Apply appropriate cleaning solution to the cleaning cloth / mop. Do NOT apply directly to the floor.
- For lightly soiled area, clean with distilled water.
- For moderately soiled areas, use a mild solution of isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and distilled water. Dilute the mixture by mixing one part alcohol and 2 parts distilled water. For tougher spots, use a higher concentration of isopropyl alcohol and distilled water. For extreme cases, a solution of nail polish remover and distilled water can be used.
- HINT: For best results, clean the floor in the same direction of the planks. When the cleaning cloth/mop becomes soiled, rinse or replace it with a clean one. Following up with a clean, dry cloth will remove residual streak marks and spots.
- Do NOT leave any amount of liquids (water, juice, soft drinks, spills, etc.) on the floor. Clean any wet spots immediately.
- Do NOT use a steam cleaner.
- Do NOT use a wet mop or douse the floor with water or liquid cleaners. Liquid can seep between the cracks and cause moisture damage.
- Do NOT use any cleaning agents containing wax, oil or polish. Left over residue will form a dull film.
- Do NOT use steel wool or scouring powder which will scratch the floor.

BRANDED OR OFF-THE-SHELF FLOOR CARE PRODUCTS

If none of the above are effective and you choose to use a store bought product, test the product in a non-conspicuous area (i.e., closet, corner, or scrap pieces) for potential adverse side effects.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

- Protect your floor when using a dolly for moving furniture or appliances. Protective sheets and/or plywood may be needed. Never slide or roll heavy furniture or appliances across the floor.
- Place protective pads beneath furniture legs and other heavy objects.
- Avoid excessive exposure to water from being tracked in during periods of inclement weather.
- Minimize abrasive material and dirt by placing mats on both sides of exterior doors and by using area rugs in high-traffic areas
- Rearrange furniture and rugs periodically to avoid uneven color and shade changes from light exposure.
- Use protective mats beneath rolling chairs and keep furniture casters clean.
- Keep pets' nails trimmed.
- Remove shoes with cleats, spikes or exceptionally pointy heels before walking on the floor.

CLIMATE MAINTENANCE

- Care should be taken to control humidity levels within the 40% - 55% range. Flooring, especially hardwood and bamboo, dimensions will be affected by varying levels of humidity.
- Dry Climates:** A humidifier is recommended to maintain humidity levels. Wood stoves and electric heat tend to create very dry conditions during the winter months this also will cause shrinkage in flooring.
- Humid, Wet Climates:** By using an air conditioner, heater, or dehumidifier proper humidity levels can be maintained to prevent excessive expansion due to high moisture content.

FLOOR REPAIR

- Very light and small surface scratches can be repaired with a staining “touch up” pen of the appropriate color.
- Slightly deeper scratches can be repaired by means of colored putty and or stains. Fill the scratches with the putty. Level with putty knife. Wipe off excess putty.
- Very deep scratches may require the replacement of the planks.